(d) whether Government propose to stop the facility of refuelling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Government had permitted transit and refuelling facilities only for US Air Force transport aircraft, to be used solely for transporting non-lethal supplies and for evacuating personnel on humanitarian, medical and emergency grounds.

(b) Government had viewed the provisions of this facility as consistent with its established practices and policies.

(c) Government are aware of the reaction of Iraq. No formal protest has been received from Iraq by the Government. It has been conveyed to the Government of Iraq that the transit and refuelling facilities provided to US Air Force transport aircraft were solely for the purpose of transporting non-lethal cargo and for the evacuation of personnel on humanitarian, medical and emergency considerations.

(d) With effect from 20th February, 1991, no transit and refuelling is taking place.

"INDO-US Herpetological Project"

359. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Indo-US Herpetological Project the country has been losing rare fauna since 1984 and that the National Museum of Natural History set up to promote the cause of environment protection has been flouting the rules in this regard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the project which was supposed to last till 1987 has been extended till 1993;

(c) whether Government have inquired into the reasons for extending the project till 1993; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof stating the action taken by Government in

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Indo-US Herpetological Project is a research project, undertaken by the National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi in collaboration with Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, USA, to study the environmental diversity of the amphibians and reptiles in selected regions of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Such of the specimens collected by field teams from selected sites as require further examination and analysis are sent to Carnegie Museum. The Project provides that 50 per cent of the collected specimens will be returned to the National Museum of Natural History after completion of their study at the Carnegie Museum.

(b) to (d) Very limited field work was reported to have been completed upto 1990. Therefore, an extension of the project for another three years was approved in terms of the memorandum of understanding governing the project.

World Bank funds for irrigation projects in India

360. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent press reports that the World Bank has announced not to release the funds sanctioned as a loan for irrigation projects whose implementation has been delayed; if so, what are the names of such projects, State-wise; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to convince the World Bank of Government's intention for speedy implementation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RE-